

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 14, 1896, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Saturday, March 14, 1896. My darling little wifie:

I haven't got anything to say and only write to let you see I am thinking of you just now.

I examined the school at Sheboygan this morning — 8 pupils — good material. The teacher, Miss Kribs a beautiful girl — only 20 years old — and so petite that she looks like a young girl much to her mortification. She has, however, by her work proved to the School Board of Sheboygan that she is quite competent for her position. She is a good teacher and full of earnest enthusiasm for her work. Owing to the opposition of the Delavan School — the city of Sheboygan was refused State Aid — and the School Board thinking probably that the slight girlish figure — indicated immaturity — declined to undertake the school. Miss Kribs was not to be daunted however. She appeared upon the scene — took possession in fact — secured some pupils — Mr. Spencer's society paid her salary for six months by which time she had captured the town — which again appealed for State Aid this time successfully.

The Phonological Institute was re-imbursed for the money expended and the school has come into existence to stay.

Left Sheboygan at 3.30 this afternoon — arriving at Manitowoc at 4.20. Here, as at Sheboygan, I was met by some of the principal citizens of the town — and taken up to the hotel in style. Indeed I begin to feel quite stuck up — being treated everywhere as 2 a great personage!! I am afraid that if this treatment continues much longer — I won't be able to see you or Daisy by the time I return — my chin will be so high in the air!

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We had a very nice meeting this evening in the Masonic Hall where I made an address. A parents' association exists here; and after the meeting quite a number of citizens became Associate Members. The pupils of the school are to meet me tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon — some of the parents will be present too.

The teacher, Miss Locke, impresses me as a woman of great ability. Indeed nothing impresses me more than the ability and tact with which Mr. Spencer has selected the teachers of these little schools.

The secret of the success of the Wisconsin Movement is to be found in this fact. Teachers count for more than Method. And certainly — the Phonological Institute has turned out a remarkably capable body of teachers.

I wonder when I shall hear from you again. Mr. McCurdy is probably far on his way to Ottawa by this time. Hope for a telegram from him soon.

This is a beautiful little town on the shore of Lake Michigan — the centre of an agricultural region. Love to Daisy.

Your loving, Alec.